



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5743

February Session, 2006

* _____HB05743PD_____041706_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) For the purposes of
2 sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act, "animal control officer" includes a
3 regional animal control officer, assistant regional animal control
4 officer, municipal animal control officer, as defined in section 22-327 of
5 the general statutes, and an assistant municipal animal control officer.

6 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of
7 Agriculture shall develop a training program, within available
8 appropriations, for certification of animal control officers. The program
9 shall consist of not less than eighty hours of training including, but not
10 limited to: (1) State and federal laws of arrest, search and seizure; (2)
11 state law relating to animals; (3) the basics of investigation; (4) report
12 writing and record keeping; (5) shelter or pound standards; (6) disease
13 recognition; (7) euthanasia policy; (8) ethics and professionalism in
14 dealing with the public; (9) cruelty and neglect investigations,
15 including, but not limited to, blood sports and cults; (10) animal bite
16 and vicious animal investigations; (11) officer safety and loss
17 prevention; (12) animal care, identification, behavior, handling and
18 capture and restraint techniques; (13) overview of the legal system,
19 court structure and terminology; (14) warrants; (15) civil liability

20 issues; and (16) for animal control officers employed by municipalities
21 that permit officers to carry firearms, weapons training.

22 (b) The commissioner shall approve or develop an examination,
23 within available appropriations, designed to test proficiency in the
24 subjects covered by the training program developed pursuant to
25 subsection (a) of this section. The examination may be written, oral,
26 practical or a combination thereof.

27 (c) The commissioner may approve, reject or revoke approval of any
28 animal control officer training courses including, but not limited to,
29 courses provided by the National Animal Control Association, the
30 American Humane Association, the Police Officer Standards and
31 Training Council or the Humane Society of the United States, for
32 inclusion in the training programs developed pursuant to this section.

33 (d) The commissioner may, from time to time, amend or alter the
34 training programs and the examination the commissioner develops
35 pursuant to this section.

36 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) Each person appointed as
37 an animal control officer after October 1, 2006, shall be certified
38 pursuant to training and examination standards approved by the
39 Commissioner of Agriculture not later than four years after such
40 appointment. Unless exempted pursuant to subsection (b) of this
41 section, such animal control officers shall satisfactorily complete
42 training requirements and examinations pursuant to section 2 of this
43 act. One-half of the certification shall be completed not later than two
44 years after such appointment. The provisions of section 7-294d of the
45 general statutes shall not apply to animal control officers appointed
46 pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the general statutes.

47 (b) The commissioner shall waive the requirement of satisfactory
48 completion of the training requirements for candidates who have
49 served as animal control officers in the state for a period of five years
50 since July 1, 1996.

51 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) (a) Certification of a person
 52 as an animal control officer shall expire after two years if the person
 53 has not been employed as a municipal animal control officer during
 54 that period, unless the person is an officer who has been on leave of
 55 absence. Upon reemployment of a person as an animal control officer,
 56 such officer shall apply for certification and become certified in a
 57 manner provided by section 2 of this act.

58 (b) A municipality may appoint a temporary animal control officer
 59 who does not hold a certificate pursuant to this act for a period not
 60 greater than thirty days per calendar year. The Commissioner of
 61 Agriculture may grant a one time thirty-day extension for such
 62 temporary animal control officer. The commissioner may encourage
 63 municipalities to share the services of animal control officers in the
 64 event a temporary animal control officer is needed by a municipality.

65 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) The Commissioner of
 66 Agriculture may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions
 67 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of
 68 sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act, including, but not limited to,
 69 establishing procedures for applying for certification as an animal
 70 control officer.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*